Creator / **Team StarKid**

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Team StarKid is a loosely-organised musical theatre production troupe, originally from Ann Arbor, based in Chicago for the majority of their existence, and currently found in Los Angeles, who are famous for making *A Very Potter Musical*.

The group began as friends who met while studying at the University of Michigan and did several projects together, usually in conjunction with Basement Arts, before hitting surprise mainstream success through *A Very Potter Musical*.

Their original musical *Me and My Dick* broke records as it became the first college musical to break into the Billboards top Cast albums, debuting at number 11. In July 2010, the group released *A Very StarKid Album*, a compilation album featuring songs from the Harry Potter musicals, *Little White Lie*, *Me and My Dick* and some original music; it rose to number 27 on the iTunes charts, beating out Lady Gaga and the *Glee* soundtrack for a little while. In late 2010, Team StarKid relocated to Chicago in order to establish a repertory theatre company, where they achieved success as a major part of the Chicago comedy and indie theatre scene throughout the 2010s.

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The troupe split in 2016 after the release of *Firebringer*, with about half the core members moving to Los Angeles while the other half remained in Chicago, and the Los Angeles crew (which included the Lang Brothers, the primary writing team behind the troupe since the beginning) being the ones to move forward with the "Starkid" brand name.

Many of their shows can be considered Affectionate Parody, and contain numerous Shout Outs to other works.

Their official website and links to their projects, music and merchandise can be found on the

website.

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Their projects are:

- *Little White Lie* (2007) — a "pre-Starkid" webseries
- Very Potter trilogy
  - *AVPM: A Very Potter Musical* (2009)
  - *AVPS: A Very Potter Sequel* (2010)
  - *AVPSY: A Very Potter Senior Year* (2012)
- *Me and My Dick* (2009)
- *Starship* (2011)
- *Holy Musical B@man!* (2012)
- *Twisted: The Untold Story of a Royal Vizier* (2013)
- *Ani: A Parody* (2014)
- *The Trail to Oregon!* (2014)
- *Firebringer* (2016)
- Hatchetfield
  - *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals* (2018)
  - *Black Friday* (2019)

- *Nightmare Time* (2020)

Tours

- The Digitour: In 2011, Team StarKid were part of the Digitour, a travelling tour of musicians and acts who became famous via YouTube. Joey Richter, Brian Holden, Jaime Lyn Beatty, Lauren Lopez, Joe Walker, Dylan Saunders and A.J. Holmes performed songs from *AVPM* and *AVPS*, *Me and My Dick* and *Starship* in front of live audiences.
- Funtastic Slamaganza: In 2011, Team StarKid had a charity event to benefit Snow City Arts. It was a variety performance featuring most of the members of Team StarKid who live in Chicago. It included songs from the musicals, songs by Jim and the Povolos, Standup by Meredith Stepien, as well as other acts by the StarKids. This is also where the first announcement was made confirming *A Very Potter Senior Year* for 2012.
- The SPACE Tour: Similar to the Digitour and Funtastic Slamaganza, the SPACE Tour is a performance of various StarKid songs that toured through the U.S. Midwest and East Coast. Charlene Kaye, who is a friend of most of the members of Team StarKid from college, is opening on the tour. The tour includes the eastern United States and London... Ontario. A concert album of the New York City show was released on March 13, 2012. A DVD based on the tour including behind-the-scenes footage was released later that month on the 24th.
- Apocalyptour: StarKid's second national tour, which is more story driven than the SPACE Tour. The StarKids, having given up singing and dancing, have turned to their true passion of archaeological digs until they unearth the Mayan God of Chaos and Death, Margaret, who is ready to bring about the 2012 apocalypse. Fortunately, Margaret is also the Mayan God of Musical Theater, and gives the StarKids a chance to save the world by putting on a concert. Unlike the SPACE Tour, Apocalyptour visited several venues on the West Coast.

Sketch shows

- Airport For Birds (And Other Great Ideas): The team's first sketch show presented in partnership with Second City Chicago in January-March 2013.
- 1-Night-2-Last-3-Ever: A second sketch show which was performed in Fall 2013. It centered around the fictional boy band 3Ever and featuring sketches based around 1990's culture and nostalgia.

Other works of note:

- The StarKid Announcement Videos: The secondary purpose of these semi-regular videos is to inform people of the dates, times and locations of upcoming shows, answer frequently-asked-questions, pimp the StarKid merchandise and let fans know about changes to the website or other things. The main purpose of these videos is to make you laugh your ass off.
- Jim and the Povolos: Meredith Stepien had the idea in 2011 to [illegible] who also played instruments and develop a spinoff act as a ba[illegible] Povolo (who is, despite the name, not part of the regular lineup [illegible] Baxtresser, Jaime Lyn Beatty, Nick Gage, Brian Holden, Laure[illegible] Meredith Stepien, and Mark Swiderski. Began as an opening a[illegible] Kaye and a "supporting act" for Team Starkid proper on the SP[illegible] EP, *The Holiday Club*, in 2011, and in 2017 finally cut a full-leng[illegible]
- Starkid Takes Manhattan: The fifth anniversary of *AVPM*, with songs from all of their previous shows, including *Twisted*.
- Starkid Summer Season 2014: In addition to performing *The Trail to Oregon!* and *Ani: A Parody* the team also put on various shows on a smaller-scale. These shows were performed late at night after the musicals and ranged from sketch comedy, to stand up, to dance and everything in between.
- A Very Starkid Reunion: A show performed a[illegible] 5 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the UM[illegible] Unlike the SPACE Tour and Apocalyptour, th[illegible] actors from all of Starkid's past stage shows[illegible] including bringing back long-absent Starkid [illegible]
- Starkid Summer Season 2016: Similar to the[illegible] shows to offset the cost of producing *Firebri*[illegible]
- *Movies, Musicals and Me*: A somewhat bizarre side project, originating as a two-man show with Esther Fallick and Clark Baxtresser in LA in July 2016, then expanded and rereleased as a Web show on YouTube in 2017. Produced by Esther Fallick, Clark Baxtresser, Pierce Siebers, Nick Lang and Brian Holden. In a parody of All Musicals Are Adaptations, the show takes place in a world where *every* popular film ever released has been adapted into a musical, from *The Godfather* to the Marvel Cinematic Universe — and, moreover, one starring a very old-fashi[illegible] Evans. The show is presented as a greatest[illegible] Fallick playing Halpert Evans and Clark Bax[illegible] biggest fan Courtney. Includes appearances[illegible]

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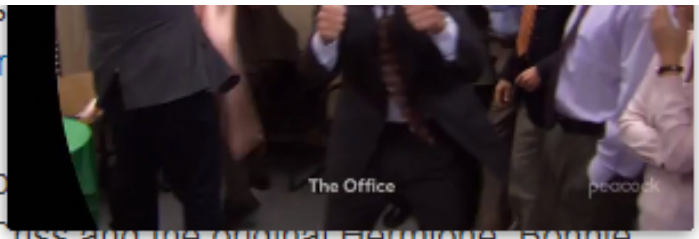
biggest fan Courtney. Includes appearances
Corey Dorris, Brian Holden, Nick Lang, Laur
Saunders, along with Mary Kate Wiles from



- Starkid Homecoming: Starkid's most ambitio
Starkid's past performers including Darren Criss and the original Hermione, Bonnie Gruesen Socha, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *A Very Potter Musical* for one night only in Los Angeles, July 25, 2019 (later expanded to two nights due to popularity and the Kickstarter reaching over $547,000).
- The Tin Can Brothers: A spinoff sketch comedy troupe consisting of Joey Richter, Corey Lubowich, and Brian Rosenthal. They created *Spies are Forever*, *The Solve-It Squad Returns!* and *Wayward Guide For The Untrained Eye*.
- *Starry* is a musical about the life of Vincent
The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals and *Blac*
writer/lyricist Kelly D'Angelo, that has feature
It's been in workshop since 2017 in LA and
York, but as of yet has never had a full stage
January 2020 and is the easiest way for a m
available on most streaming services, and s
with Starkid members Mariah Rose Faith as Jo Bonger, Jaime Lyn Beatty as Émile (or "Émilie") Bernard, and Jeff Blim as Paul Gauguin.

- Broadway Jackbox: During the COVID-19 Pandemic, several Starkid members appeared on one of the Broadway Jackbox livestreams as a fundraiser for The Actors' Fund, hosted by Andrew Barth Feldman and Alex Bonniello from the cast of *Dear Evan Hansen*, which was the beginning of integrating Andrew, a longtime fan, into the "Starkid family".
- Starkid Livestreams: As a way to keep busy
2020 Robert Manion organized some inform
films from their childhood: *Scream*, *Hocus P*
keeping with the newfound Horror Comedy
films are somewhere on the Horror Comedy
accompanied by the amazing improvisationa
on keyboard. They can be found here:
  - *Scream*, read April 11, 2020, with Jaime Lyn Beatty as Casey Becker, Mariah Rose Faith as Sidney Prescott, Lauren Lopez as Gail Weathers, Joey Richter as Billy Loomis, Angela Giarratana as Tatum Riley, Jon Matteson as Dewey Riley, Jeff Blim as Stu Macher, Corey Dorris as Randy Meeks, Nick Lang as the voice of Ghostface, and Robert Manion as the stage directions.

- *Hocus Pocus*, read May 1, 2020, with Robert Manion as Thackery Binx, Jaime Lyn Beatty as Winifred Sanderson, Angela Giarratana as Mary Sanderson, Lauren Lopez as Sarah Sanderson, Joey Richter as Ma
Corey Dorris as Billy the Butcher, Jeff Bli
Rose Faith as Allison, and Jon Matteson
- *Addams Family Values*, read May 13, 2
Joey Richter as Gomez Addams (and, m
Addams, Mariah Rose Faith as Wednesc
Pugsley Addams, Lauren Lopez as Debb
Buckman, Nick Lang as Gary Granger, Jaime Lyn Beatty as Becky Martin-Granger, Jon Matteson as Joel Glicker, and Robert Manion as the stage directions (and Lurch).

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- A "Starkid-adjacent" show, *Royalties*, premiered on sadly short-lived streaming service Quibi on May 31st, 2020, produced by and starring Darren Criss alongside Kether Donohue from *You're the Worst*, with the Lang Brothers hired as writers and a mixture of A-list celebrity guests and Starkid troupe members as guest stars. Considered a Spiritual Successor to *Little White Lie*, it's about the unsung travails of songwriters in the music industry stuck composing music for much-m
- Starkid worked with Andrew Barth Feldman
Jackbox, Broadway Whodunit, a series of
to once again raise money for The Actors' F
performed on October 4th.
- *A VHS Christmas Carol* is a short-form Gree
doing a "fully produced" video during the COVID-19 Pandemic, portraying the classic Charles Dickens novel as a set of Concept Album Music Videos from The '80s. Also serves as a Reunion Show for the "first generation" of Starkid actors, bringing back several performers who hadn't appeared in a Starkid show since the Lang Brothers moved their base to LA with *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals*.

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Team StarKid regulars with their own creator pages:

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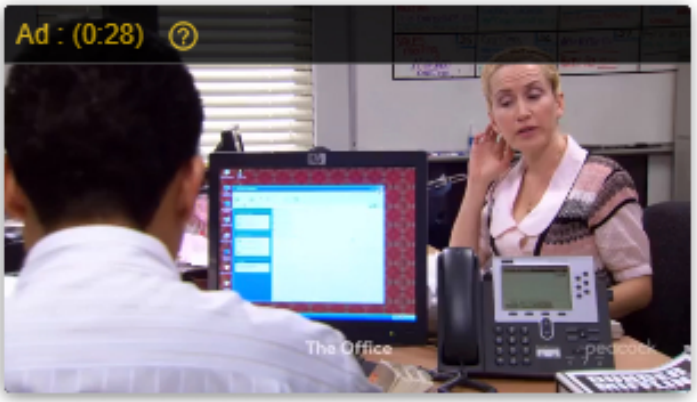
Current:

- Lang Brothers
- Jaime Lyn Beatty
- Jeff Blim
- Corey Dorris

- Corey Burns
- Lauren Lopez
- Corey Lubowich
- Joey Richter
- Dylan Saunders

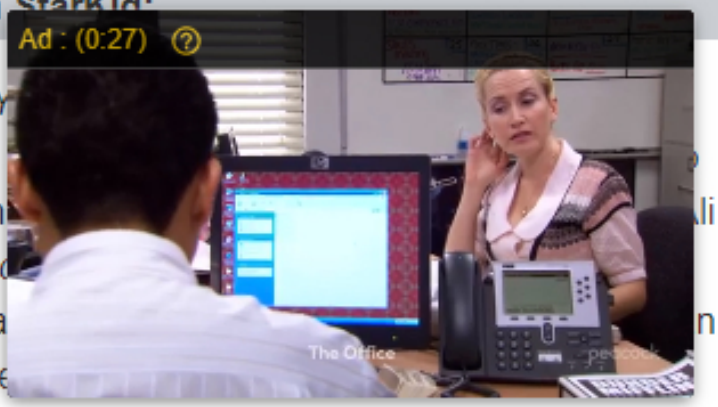
Former:

- Darren Criss
- Denise Donovan
- Brian Holden
- Eric Kahn Gale
- Brian Rosenthal
- Rachael Soglin
- Meredith Stepien
- Carlos Valdes
- Joe Walker

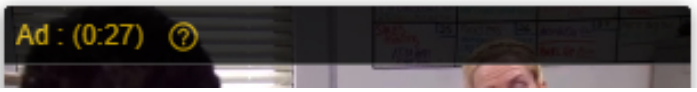


See the character sheet for a list of other regulars and collaborators.

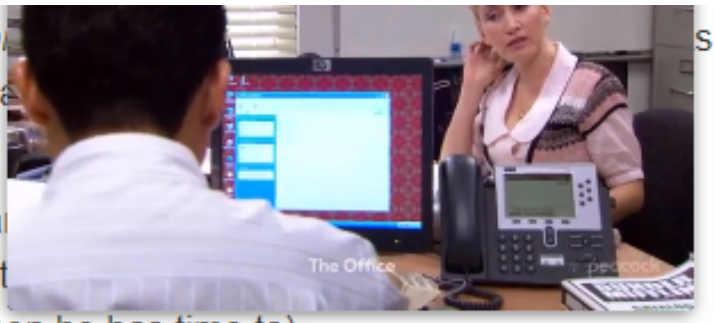
Tropes associated with the works of Team StarKid:



- Absentee Actor: Both *A Very Potter Senior Y* 2019 sought to reunite every performer that that point. For *Senior Year*, Bonnie Gruesen Gordon had scheduling conflicts. For *Homec* Nicholas Strauss were absent from the initia and Devin Lytle also ultimately failed to appe
- Adaptation Deviation: Nick Lang gave an interview describing Starkid's Origin Story, where the University of Michigan's Basement Arts program initially didn't allow original scripts and so he did a "stealth parody" of *The Hobbit* by submitting the script of an existing Played Straight stage adaptation of the book for approval and then making so many jokey changes to the script it ended up an In Name Only adaptation. *Holy Musical B@man!* originates from an attempt to do a similar reworking of the musical *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman!* in college.
- All Musicals Are Adaptations: Played with in



parodies. Averted with *Me and My Dick*, *Sta*... of the Hatchetfield saga, they're not doing pa...

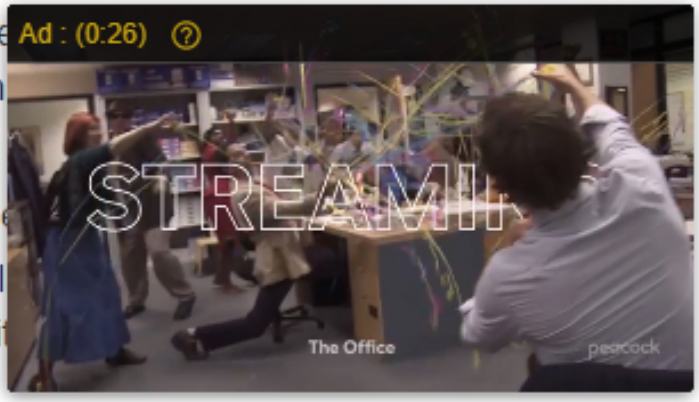


- Breakup Breakout:
  - Averted. There were fears that Team Sta... involvement, but the group has gone on t... does participate in projects with them when he has time to).
  - And again when half the crew, including Nick Lang who owns the name, moved to Los Angeles and the other half elected not to. Since then, the *Hatchetfield* franchise has proved a resounding success and gotten the crew a huge wave of new fans, plus plenty of former members still contribute to projects such as *StarKid Homecoming* and *A VHS Christmas Carol*.
- Butt-Monkey: A *lot*
- Cerebus Syndrome: Starting with *Firebringe*... troupe away from pop culture parody musica... Starkid helped pioneer) that's kind of played... trademark irreverent poop jokes, *Firebringer*... message. *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musical*... surprisingly dark undertones, and *Black Frid*...

- Creator Thumbprint
  - Apparently the writers like creating villains that are redeemed by love, along with having at least one villain who receives karmatic retribution in the end.
  - They use Ho Yay a great deal. *Holy Musical B@man!* takes this Up to Eleven.
  - They have a tendency to write Real After All reveals, like Pigfarts and Cornwallis.
  - If organized religion appears or is referenced, expect it to be mercilessly ridiculed. In the future, God is Dead; in the 1800s, God is a vicious, two-faced prick; in the distant past, religion is a lie used to manipulate s... God answers the least convenient prayer... each other); and at Hogwarts, God is a w... Rituals.
  - Puppet Shows: At least half of their show... chock full of them.

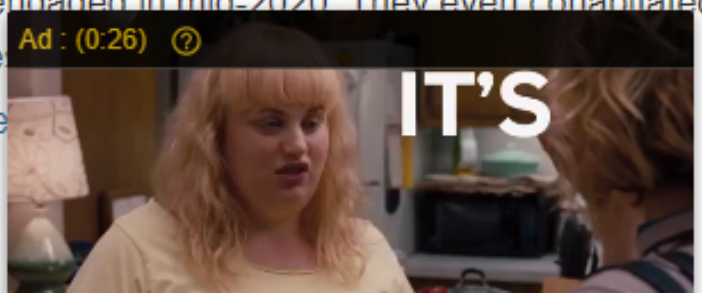
- Cross-Cast Role: Very common throughout their body of work, but for laughs, rather than any practical reason. While a longtime staple of their work, they eventually decided to stop casting male actors as female characters, as they find it transphobic and now consider it an Old Shame that they ever did so, particularly those portrayals meant to

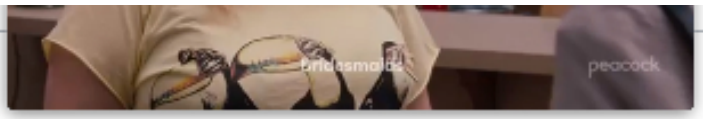
consider it an Old Shame that they ever did so, particularly those portrayals meant to come across as comically creepy like that of Dolores Umbridge. For some reason, they have *not* stopped casting female actors as male characters, even occasionally still using *that* for the creep factor, such as with Sherman in *Black Friday*.



- Fan Nickname: DCriss (Darren Criss); Brose
  Lopez); Meredif (Meredith Stepien); Brolden
- Flanderization
  - Dylan Saunders is actually Jewish, but h
  - It can be assumed from Lauren Lopez's l
    Hispanic ancestry, but she exaggerates i
- Iconic Item
  - Joey Richter's headband, which he's worn as three of his characters.
  - In several of their shows, every single character wears Chuck Taylor shoes.
  - The plain door on stage left in all but the most dramatic of their shows.
- Lost Episode: Before *A Very Potter Musical*, the group now known as "Team Starkid" did a stage play parody (not a musical, despite what many assume) of *The Hobbit* and a sequel entitled *The Hobbit 2: The Lord of the Rings*. No one ever filmed the *Hobbit* production and the *LOTR* one was thought l
  clip showcasing Lauren Lopez as Frodo ar
  Firebringer's Kickstarter backers were show
  nearly its entirety.

- One Steve Limit: Averted. There are three J
- Promoted Fanboy: Among the cast member
  Robert Manion.
- Rewritten Pop Version: Of "Sami", "Not Alone", "Even Though", "Ready to Go", "Stutter", "1001 Nights".
- Saying Sound Effects Out Loud: Characters in Starkid shows never gasp, they only ever exclaim the word "Gasp!"
- Secret Relationship: Joey Richter and Lauren Lopez dated secretly for eight years, not revealing it to the public until they became engaged in mid-2020. They even cohabitated for much of that time, but passed themselve
- Shout-Out: To the point where they have the
- Southern Belle: If Devin Lytle is involved.
- The Wiki Rule: Here.





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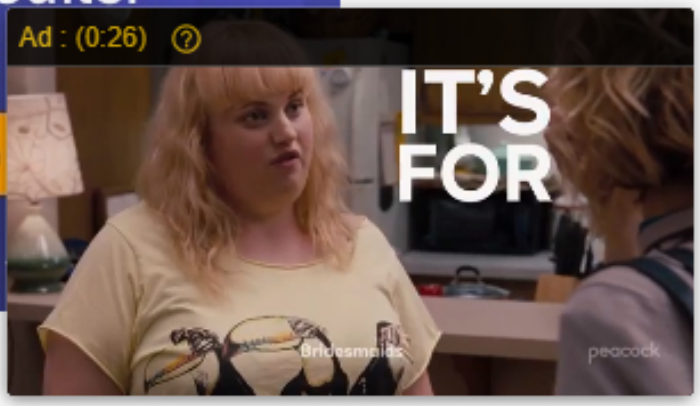

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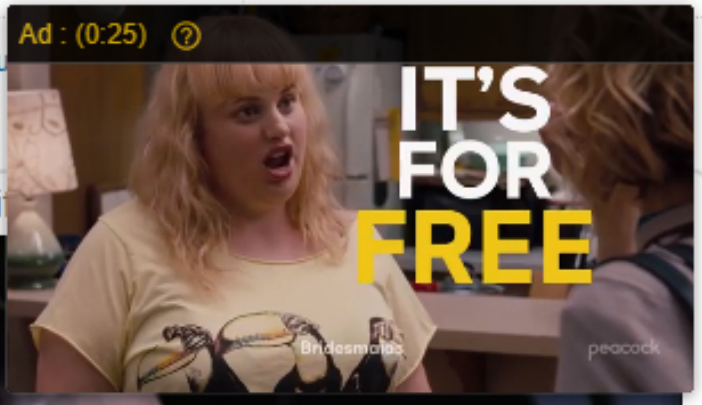

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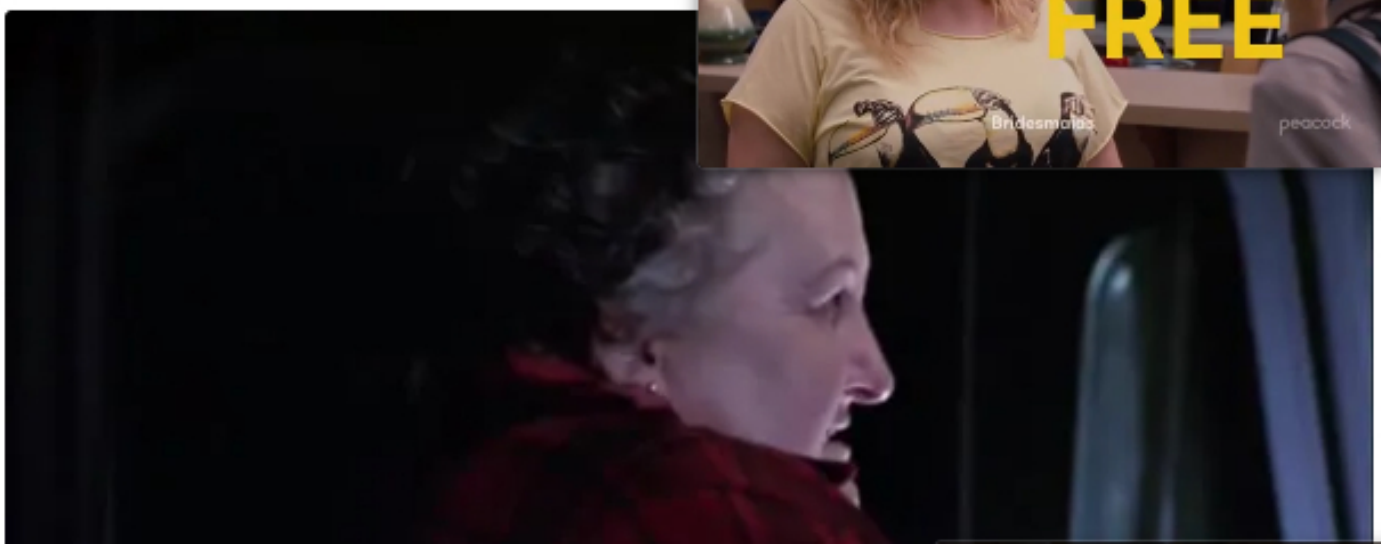

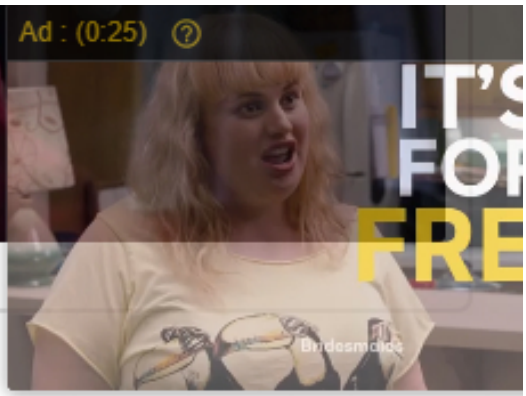

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